# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7167
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
PROJECT FUND FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have set up a Project Fund of Rs. 70 crore to aid institutions in research activities;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for the institutions to avail of this assistance for research;

(c) whether the same institutions are getting aid on annual basis; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to diversify the grant of aid for research?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) to (d) Department of Science & Technology has launched a Scheme `Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) in Universities and Higher educational institutions` during the year 2000-2001. The scheme aims at providing basic infrastructure and enabling facilities and environment for strengthening teaching and research and attracting fresh scientific talent. Proposals are invited on an open-ended basis and institutions are selected through a rigorous peer review mechanism which is highly competitive. The support is aimed at 2 levels: Level I - moderate funding for improving quality of teaching and research; and Level II - substantial funding for acquiring state-of-the-art equipment for conducting competitive research. Support to institutions is provided over a 5-year period. The Government has allocated Rs 75 crores for this scheme during the current financial year.